

Press Release



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Cross Ranch Program Features “Historic Lewis & Clark Cottonwoods” Program

Friends, families, neighbors, educators and everyone interested in learning about the “Historic Lewis & Clark Cottonwoods” are invited to attend as Glenda Fauske from the North Dakota Forest Service will present such a program at Cross Ranch State Park on Friday, August 19th. The program will start at 8:30 pm (CDT) at the park’s amphitheater.

Fauske is currently the Information and Education Coordinator for the North Dakota Forest Service. She will be discussing how cottonwoods were utilized by the Native Americans, the Lewis & Clark Expedition and how such trees are used today. The cottonwoods contributed more to the success of the Lewis & Clark Expedition than any other tree! Cottonwoods are the only tree to have a star inside their trunk and branches. You’ll learn how the star came to be in the tree and why it is still there today, according to a Native American legend. Don’t miss your chance to hear about the history of the cottonwoods and a free "cottonwood star" to remind you of what you learn.

Approximately 4 miles from the park’s River Peoples Visitor Center, Smith Grove houses silent witnesses to the Corps’ legendary journey. There are twelve cottonwood trees that are over 15 feet in circumference, 90-100 feet tall and between 250-300 years old.

For more information, call 701-794-3731 or check out www.ndparks.com as all interpretive programs are posted on the website. Cross Ranch State Park is located 35 miles north of Bismarck, near Washburn along the Missouri River.